

THE TIMES-HERALD
RICHMOND, VA., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1913.
THE WEATHER TO-DAY—Fair.
PRICE TWO CENTS.

PALSY-SHAKEN OLD MAN FOUND BY INQUISITORS

Rockefeller's Condition
So Serious Examination
Is Abandoned.

EXHAUSTED AFTER FOUR QUESTIONS

Borne to His Couch by Physi-
cian, Who Swears That Life of
Once Active Head of Power-
ful Standard Oil Bankers Is
Being Endangered by Con-
gressional Inquiry.



WILLIAM ROCKEFELLER.

Jekyll Island, Ga., February 7.—A
spasm of the throat that left William
Rockefeller a straggling, trembling old
man, on the verge of nervous collapse,
abruptly terminated his examination
by Chairman Pujos and counsel, Samuel
Untermyer, of the House money trust
committee, here to-day.

Mr. Rockefeller was asked just four
questions, all practically immaterial,
before the attack forced the conclusion
of the hearing. The aged Standard Oil
magnate was clothed with the com-
mitment for just twelve minutes. At
the end of the time he was assisted
to his couch by Dr. Walter F. Chappelle,
his physician, who declared his
patient exhausted.

In a plainly but elegantly furnished
room, in Rockefeller's apartment in
the summer apartment house, San
Juan, on the isolated island that forms
the estate of the exclusive millionaire's
club of Jekyll Island, the seventy-two-
year-old Standard Oil magnate sub-
mitted to the questions of the money
trust inquisitors.

Their Efforts Ended.
There ended the six-months' efforts
of the government probers who
hounded the reluctant witness from
New York to the Bahamas, and who
slogged to his New York town house.
The net result of the examination, so
far as the money trust investigation
was concerned, added practically noth-
ing of value to the record. It did dem-
onstrate to the satisfaction of Mr. Un-
termyer and Mr. Pujos that Mr. Rocke-
efeller was hardly a fit subject physi-
cally for a grueling examination on
the details of his financial career.

Contrary to expectations, the exclu-
sive Jekyll Island Club interposed no
objection to the invasion of its pri-
vate domain by the congressional in-
quisitors. The club launch met Mr.
Pujos and Mr. Untermyer at the Brun-
swick dock and carried them with their
retinue of clerks and stenographers to
Mr. Rockefeller's apartment, which
is in the same building with the
James J. Hill and J. P. Morgan. A
footman on guard at a locked door
greeted them, but they were admitted,
accompanied by John A. Garver and
A. F. Cravatt, counsel for Mr. Rocke-
efeller, and Dr. Chappelle. In the apart-
ment were Mrs. Rockefeller and Mr.
Rockefeller's two sons and his daugh-
ter, Mrs. McAlpin.

The examination was delayed for a
time by a conference between counsel
for the prospective witness and Mr.
Untermyer, but the inquisitors were
finally ushered into a large drawing
room, where Mr. Rockefeller, bent and
shaking with the palsy, sat in a large
armchair beside a glass-topped table.

His Voice Inaudible.
The trembling hands of the once
active head of the powerful Standard
Oil group of bankers settled on the
arms of his chair as he arose to greet
his visitors. He did not remain stand-
ing long, however, and his whispered
word of greeting was inaudible to even
those nearest him.

The chair of Mr. Rockefeller was
moved close beside a small table, at
which the official stenographer took
his place. At a larger table a few feet
away Mr. Pujos and Mr. Untermyer
sat. Beside them sat Mr. Garver and
Dr. Chappelle. In the apartment
were Mrs. Rockefeller and Mr. Rocke-
efeller's two sons and his daugh-
ter, Mrs. McAlpin.

As soon as he was sworn the Stand-
ard Oil magnate handed to the stenog-
rapher a slip of paper, with the
whispered request that the stenog-
rapher read it.

"I am urgently advised and warned,"
(Continued on Ninth Page.)

WHOLE NUMBER, 19,255

BANK WRECKERS MUST SERVE TERM

Breese and Dickerson
Lose After Fighting
for Sixteen Years.

GET TWO YEARS IN ATLANTA PRISON

Asheville Bank President and
Director Also Required to Pay
\$2,500 Fines—Only Chance
of Freedom Lies Now in
Appeal to Woodrow
Wilson.

After fighting through every court
an indictment returned against them
sixteen years ago, William E. Breese,
at one time president of the First Na-
tional Bank of Asheville, N. C., and
Joseph E. Dickerson, a director, lost
their final chance of freedom, when the
United States Circuit Court of Appeals,
in session here, ruled yesterday against
them. These two men, who long had
the confidence and respect of the com-
munity in which they lived, must serve
two years in the Federal penitentiary
and in addition must pay a fine of
\$2,500 each.

There is a certain element of ro-
mance connected with the legal bat-
tle of Breese and Dickerson. William
H. Penland, cashier of the bank, who
was jointly indicted with them on Oc-
tober 5, 1897, never went to trial, the
understanding elsewhere being that he
turned State's evidence. Exactly how
much money was lost by stockholders
and depositors when the bank was
wrecked has been variously estimated,
although the amount was large. Dick-
erson himself being one of the heav-
iest losers. Thousands of dollars have
been spent in their defense, while the
cost of taking the case from one court
to another was enormous. But cost
did not stand in the way of the effort
to save the former president and a
former director from prison.

Ready Now for Prison.
With the last hope of appeal gone,
the court will immediately direct the
United States marshal in North Caro-
lina to take charge of the defendants.
They will be removed to Atlanta, but
it would not be surprising to find that
the new President will be asked to
pardon them soon after he takes office
on March 4.

The last chapter in this celebrated
case was written yesterday when the
court handed down its opinion, affirm-
ing the judgment of the court below.
The opinion was written by Judge
McDowell, Judges Goff and Rose con-
curring. In the original indictment
Breese, Dickerson and Penland were
charged with conspiracy to embezzle
and misappropriate funds of the First
National Bank of Asheville. Through
criminal activities it was charged that
large sums of money were squandered,
resulting finally in the ruin of the
bank. Five times the case went to
trial in the lower court, three times
it was appealed to the United States
Circuit Court of Appeals, once to the
United States Supreme Court on a
question of law. On two previous
appeals the Circuit Court of Appeals
granted new trials, but now the case
has appeared on the docket for the last
time.

Breese, during all of the court trou-
ble, has been a workaholic, though not
a bank man. It was the same with
Dickerson. Their friends never deserted
them, and the general belief was that
as the matter had been in court for
so many years it would end finally
without finding them in prison.

Through Many Trials.
Indicted on October 5, 1897, attorneys
for Breese and Dickerson first
moved to quash the indictments, once
in 1904 and again in 1909, securing
both times a hearing before the Cir-
cuit Court of Appeals. They were
originally tried at the March term of
the United States District Court at
Asheville in 1899, were found guilty
and sentenced to seven years in the Fed-
eral penitentiary. An appeal was taken
and a new trial ordered. Breese was
tried individually for the second time
in 1902 and a third time later in the
same year, both juries failing to agree
and a mistrial resulting. Breese came
to trial a fourth time in 1904 and re-
ceived a sentence of seven years. Dick-
erson was tried at the same time and
received a like sentence.

Another appeal was taken and the
Circuit Court of Appeals ordered new
trials. Several times in the period
from 1904 to 1909 the cases were called
for trial, but postponements were ob-
tained, until finally the two men
faced the bar for the fifth and last
time at the May term, 1909. On that
occasion they were found guilty, sen-
tenced to two years in the Federal
prison and fined \$2,500 each. An ap-
peal was taken, the answer coming
yesterday when the court refused a
new trial.

Fought On Technically.
The case was once taken to the
United States Supreme Court on the
point as to whether or not a true bill
for a felony must be rendered by the
full grand jury in open court, or
whether the foreman can come into
open court alone and render a valid
indictment. The highest court decided
against the bankers when it affirmed
the validity of an indictment rendered
by the foreman alone.

In the last appeal, the attorneys for
the defense made their strongest plea
for a writ of error on the ground of
the ineligibility of N. W. Blackburn
to serve on the grand jury. They
claimed that he was disqualified by
having been in 1896, without being as-
sessed for it or having his name on the tax
list. Judge McDowell declared in his
opinion that the defense possessed \$200 in
to prove Blackburn possessed \$200 in
property, and disposed of the plea
that his name was not on the tax list
by the following words:

"State vs. Parris, 132 N. C. 1015,
1922, 18, we think, conclusive on the
question that the absence from the
list of taxpayers of the name of a
grand juror (and consequently non-
payment of taxes) does not of itself
disqualify such juror, if it does not
appear that such juror should have
been on the list."

objections Not Sustained.

The opinion also refused to sustain
objections which the defense made to
(Continued on Ninth Page.)

RICHMOND, VA., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1913.

TESTIMONY IN HIGHEST COURT

R., F. & P. Compromise
Held Up by Legal
Objection.

FRIENDLY SUIT MAY BE BROUGHT

Railroad Not Willing to Pay Big
Sum Until Assured of Consti-
tutionality of Act—Means
Further Delay Until
Courts Have
Acted.

Unwilling to pay out the sum of
\$125,000 in taxes to the State and to
political subdivisions while doubt ex-
ists as to the constitutionality of the
act under which the compromise was
effected, stockholders of the Richmond,
Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad
have demanded a test of the statute in the
courts. Not until a judicial decision
upholding the validity of the law
authorizing a settlement can he had
will the money be paid and the charter
changes consummated.

It thus appears that the end of the
chapter of tax disagreements has been
by no means reached. Although the
stockholders of the road voted in meet-
ing Wednesday to ratify the compro-
mise it will not go into effect for some
time to come.

Friendly Suit Probable.

The procedure, it is understood, has
not yet been agreed upon. Possibly
some stockholder of the Richmond,
Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad
Company will bring a friendly suit in the
Circuit Court of the city of Rich-
mond to test the constitutionality of
the law, and this would involve an ap-
peal to the Supreme Court. Appeals
of Virginia cases as to all doubts at
rest. Or a petition for a writ of in-
junction may be presented directly to
the highest court, which has original
jurisdiction in mandamus and injunc-
tion cases only. In this event, quick
action might be expected. It would
then take the form of an attempt to
enjoin the officers of the road from
carrying out the provisions of the
agreement and paying over the money
on the ground of an unauthorized com-
promise.

At the stockholders' meeting Wed-
nesday, a small number of shares were
voted against the proposition agreed
upon between the directors and the
common commission representing the
State. While the minority cast the
votes of less than 1 per cent of the
shares, the presence of any opposition
at all indicates that there will be no
stockholder who might at any time
bring an unfriendly suit and cause long
litigation. It is, therefore, thought
best to have friendly proceedings, con-
tested nominally so as to set both sides
of the proposition before the court of
last resort.

Objection by Auditor.

The feeling of uncertainty that has
led to this action being determined
upon had its basis in the cost of the
proposition. In a letter to the
Governor soon after the terms of
the compromise were announced, the
Auditor challenged the constitutionality
of the act of the last Legislature
constituting a special commission with
power to consummate an agreement for
settlement of the State's claim for ten
years' taxes against the railroad. He
took the position that the act was in
violation of a provision of the Consti-
tution prohibiting the General Assem-
bly from enacting any special law "re-
mitting, releasing, postponing or dis-
missing any obligation or liability of
any person, corporation or associa-
tion to the State or to any political
subdivision thereof."

The Auditor further indicated that,
feeling as he did, he would not receive
sum proposed, and paid under the
terms of the agreement.

Later Mr. Moore announced that he
would withdraw his objection in this
respect if the Attorney-General, as his
legal adviser, ruled that the act did
not violate the Constitution. This
was supposed to settle the matter, and
it was thought that the action of the
stockholders was conclusive.

Feared Complications.
But the point having been raised,
the railroad was unwilling to pay over
such a big sum until it is assured by
actual test in the courts of the Com-
monwealth that the compromise will
be valid and that no further claim can
be made upon it for arrears of taxes.

The situation has been further com-
plicated by the subsequent position of
Attorney-General Williams. He criti-
cized the law in some respects be-
fore committees of the General Assem-
bly last winter and had some objec-
tions to the agreement as formul-
ated by the special commission. But
he at last agreed to the compromise.

Since the meeting of stockholders
the Attorney-General has been serious
about the constitutionality of the act.
This has strengthened the decision
to have the law tested.

The contract now being prepared by
the State's commission, or, rather, be-
ing passed upon by the Legislature, is
subject to final legal decision that the
enactment is valid. If the law is ad-
judged to be unconstitutional, the en-
tire work of the special commission will
be of no avail, and the suit in the
United States Supreme Court will be
carried to a conclusion, unless the Leg-
islature finds a new way out at its
session next winter.

SHOW CONTINUES

Corn Exposition Will Remain Open
Another Week.
Columbia, S. C., February 7.—Be-
cause of the demand for corn and
other products of the Fifth National Corn
Exposition, which was to have closed
yesterday, the board of directors has
announced that the exposition will
be continued until the 15th inst.

The Fifth Corn Exposition is to
continue through another week, clos-
ing on Friday evening, the state-
ment read. "The exposition is pro-
claimed by all to be too great in in-
structional value to the people to be
closed before those who have just
realized its magnitude have an oppor-
tunity to see it."

Round-table conferences on the
country church featured to-day's pro-
gram at the exposition. One of the
addresses on this subject was
delivered by Dr. Warren H. Wilson,
superintendent of the church and
country life department of the Presbyterian
board of home missions of New York.
In addition to conferences to-mor-
row an address will be made by
Zeferino Dominguez, well-known
Mexican agriculturist.

RICHMOND, VA., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1913.

New York Police Officials Suspended for Grafting



CAPT. JAMES F. THOMPSON. CAPT. JAMES E. HUSSEY.

FORTUNES OF WAR STILL UNCERTAIN

No Independent Reports Come
From Scene of Balkan
Conflict.

ACCOUNTS ARE CONFLICTING

Greek Aviator Pilots His Hydro-
Aeroplane Over the
Dardanelles.

London, February 7.—Fighting con-
tinues between the Turks and the Bal-
kan allies in Southeastern Europe, but
in the absence of independent reports,
conflicting accounts from official
sources provide no basis for critical
judgment of what is happening.

The most interesting news of the day
received here told of the flight of a
Greek hydro-aeroplane over the Dar-
danelles.

Tumors continue to circulate here
of the approaching renewal of peace
negotiations. Nothing definite is
known in this respect, but Bulgaria
and Rumania are about to resume at
Sofia their negotiations on the fron-
tier question, which recently were in-
terrupted in London.

It is understood the last meeting of
the ambassadorial conference discussed
the Albanian question, and the con-
ference argued for and against sending
an international commission to delimit
the frontiers of the new Albanian State.

Flight Over Dardanelles

Constantinople, February 7.—There
was some fighting to-day in the re-
gion of Gallipoli, and an aeroplane
made a flight over the Dardanelles and
dropped three bombs. These were
aimed at the Turkish warships. Two
of them fell into the water, and the
third exploded on the shore, doing no
damage.

An official dispatch issued to-night
says:

"The enemy continues his movements
along the Tschatalja lines. Several en-
gagements have occurred during these
operations, all of them ending in the
retirement of the enemy. The engage-
ment near Palla developed into a some-
what severe battle. The warship Idylla
bombed the enemy from Bujuk
Chekmedzy, and the warship Adriopole
continued night and day, but the dam-
age is unimportant. The courage and
valor of the Turkish troops is admir-
able."

Drops Bomb on Arsenal

Rome, February 7.—A special dis-
patch from the island of Lemnos, in
the Aegean Sea, says Lieutenant Mu-
stusa, an aviator in the Greek army,
accompanied by the Greek captain,
Maraitis, last night made a daring
flight over the straits of the Darda-
nelles in a hydro-aeroplane. The dis-
patch says that a thorough reconnais-
sance of the Turkish fleet was made,
and that the aviator then flew over
Maidos, near the southern part of the
Gallipoli Peninsula, and overlooking
the Dardanelles, and dropped four
bombs on the arsenal there.

The aviator, reports, according to
the dispatch, that as his machine pass-
ed over the fleet, he saw flashes from
the vessels' guns as they fired at him.
The hydro-aeroplane was not hit. Cap-
tain Maraitis says he was able to
make observations during the flight
that were far more valuable than he
had expected.

To Resume Negotiations

Sofia, February 7.—Negotiations be-
tween Bulgaria and Rumania on the
frontier question will be resumed here
Dr. Danef, who was head of the Bul-
garian peace delegation in London,
and M. Savoff, former minister to Tur-
key, have been appointed as Bul-
garian delegates for the negotiations.
G. Ghoka, the Rumanian minister to
Bulgaria, probably will represent his
country.

Behind Male Line

London, February 7.—The main body
of the Turkish troops has retired be-
hind the main line of defense at Gallipoli, according to a dispatch to the
Daily Telegraph.

A Constantinople dispatch says that
the Bulgarians attacked the Bulgar
forces, but were compelled to retire to
their old positions. The Turkish
cruiser Mesoudieh, with two torpedo
boats, has sailed for the Black Sea,
apparently to cover the landing near
Midia of troops from Trebizond.

THE WEATHER TO-DAY—Fair.

JURY'S VERDICT GIVES FREEDOM TO MILLIONAIRE

Beach Acquitted on
Charge of Attempting
to Murder Wife.

THEIR STORIES GIVEN CREDENCE

New York Society Man Has Ad-
ditional Satisfaction of Hearing
Jury Foreman Say There
Was "Absolutely Nothing
Against Him"—State Is
Bitter in Arraignment.

Albion, S. C., February 7.—Acquitted
of the charge of committing a mur-
derous assault upon his wife, Fred-
erick O. Beach, the New York million-
aire, enjoyed the additional satisfaction
to-day of hearing from the lips of the
jury foreman that there was "absolu-
tely nothing against him."

Beach was in the courtroom
when the jury filed in at 2 o'clock, after
being out just one hour and forty-five
minutes. Judge Spain had declared
a recess for dinner when the first
half hour's deliberation had failed to
produce a verdict, and Beach and his
wife had gone to their hotel. Every
one of Beach's lawyers was in his seat
scanning the faces of the waiting
jurors for some sign in their favor.
Two minutes passed and Beach did
not appear.

Then the court directed the clerk to
poll the jurors and ask whether they
had agreed upon a verdict. Foreman
A. H. McCarrall, who is a cotton mill
superintendent, merely handed the
clerk an envelope containing the ver-
dict. As the words "not guilty"
reached the ears of those in the packed
courtroom, there was a slight stir,
but no applause.

Shakes Hands With Jurors.

An instant later the familiar figure
of the New York society man appeared
in the doorway with his face beaming.
The news of his acquittal had reached
him in the hall. Without pausing even
to greet his lawyers, Mr. Beach walked
over to the jury box and shook hands
warmly with every juror in his reach.
He waved and bowed his thanks to
those in the back room.

"There was absolutely no case
against you, Mr. Beach," said Foreman
McCarrall, as he grasped the extended
hand in a hearty clasp. "It was a
case of too much Watson and not
enough Sherlock."

He understood and laughed, at
the same time clapping the husky su-
perintendent familiarly on the back.
After shaking hands all around with
his lawyers, the judge, the clerk and
the bailiffs, Mr. Beach hurried away to
his wife who had remained at the
hotel. Mrs. Beach had been apprised
of the verdict by telephone.

Foreman McCarrall said after the
jury had been discharged that a ver-
dict should have been reached in a
much shorter time, but for the disposi-
tion of one or two of the jurors to
"discuss everything under the sun ex-
cept the Beach case."

"I have been vindicated, as I knew I
would be when a jury of twelve men
heard all the evidence in the case,"
said Mr. Beach a short time later, on
his way to the telephone office. Mr.
Beach would not discuss his case, but
he said that he and Mrs. Beach
expected to leave to-morrow after-
noon to visit some friends in the
North.

During the half hour the jury was
out before recess was ordered, Beach
and his wife chatted gaily with neigh-
bors of their set, who crowded around
to offer a word of encouragement.
Neither of them appeared to be con-
cerned in the least over the outcome
of the trial. Mrs. Beach asked for a
newspaper and laughed with Mrs.
Harry Hollins, who sat on the arm of
her chair, as she read some of the
references to herself in the report of
the trial.

Judge's Charge Brief.

The judge's charge to the jury was
brief. He made the customary charge
about presumption of innocence, and
said the prosecution was bound to the
act charged in the indictment. The
jury was to cut with a knife by
Beach, and was bound to prove it. He
told the jury that Beach was not
bound to prove that he did not com-
mit the crime. He pointed out the
validity of circumstantial evidence, but
said that each link in the chain must
be proven beyond reasonable
doubt, to make the evidence com-
petent.

The court said that the jury could
find Beach guilty of assault and bat-
tery with intent to kill, and with "as-
sault and battery of a high and ag-
gravated nature, the degree depending
on whether or not the act was pre-
meditated."

Prosecutor Hunter outlined the
State's theory of the assault in the
closing argument. He ridiculed the
story told by Mrs. Beach, and charac-
terized it as a "mere fabrication"
made up by Beach and later corrobo-
rated by his wife for the protection of
the former.

"What probably happened was this,"
said the prosecutor. "Mrs. Beach went
out with her dog, and when she did
not return within a reasonable time,
Beach was suspicious and started
looking for her. Going out into the
side street and back of his cottage,
where he could command a clear view
of the hole in the partition fence be-
tween his premises and the Lyons prop-
erty, Beach saw his wife in conversa-
tion with some one on the other side.
Snatching a peering from the picket
fence, he rushed around into Hood's
Lane and through the big gate lead-
ing into the Lyons yard. At the end
of the hedge he encountered the negro
servant, Pearl Hampton, stationed
there."

"When he struck her with the pal-
ing, her screams gave the alarm, and
the person he was after fled through
the big gate. Failing to catch that
person, Beach pursued his wife through
the hole in the fence, overtaking her
in the side yard of the Beach cottage,
where the assault occurred."

"Mrs. Beach staggered into the house
(Continued on Ninth Page.)

FOUR WARSHIPS FOR PROTECTION

They Are Ordered to Central
American Waters, Where
Storm Is Brewing.

REPORTS ARE ALARMING

Soldiers of Fortune Are Gather-
ing in Prospect of Active
Service.

Washington, February 7.—Storm
clouds over Central America, with
the single exception of Costa Rica, caused
the United States to-day to order four
warships there.

Reports upon which this government
took action come from many quarters,
and though in most cases they are
somewhat vague and speculative, they
are strongly of the same general tenor—
that it was no longer thought wise
to permit American interests in Cen-
tral America to remain exposed to any
dangers.

In Salvador, where for a long period
peace has prevailed, the attempted as-
sassination last Tuesday of President
Araujo by a band of conspirators is
believed here to threaten trouble, al-
though the President to-day sent as-
surances to his minister that the coun-
try was quiet.

From time to time have come re-
mors of rebellious movements in Hon-
duras and unrest in Guatemala, while
in New Orleans there are gathering
soldiers of fortune and adherents of
Zelaya, the deposed dictator, credited
with sinister designs on the govern-
ment of President Diaz, of Nicaragua.

To meet the situation so far as it
is possible at this time, the Navy Depart-
ment has ordered the gunboat Anna-
polis, now at San Diego, Cal., to pro-
ceed immediately to Amalia, Honduras.
The cruiser Denver will proceed from
Acapulco, Mexico, to Acapulco, Salva-
dor, and the gunboat Des Moines, af-
ter finishing target practice, will be
ordered from Santo Domingo to Blue-
fields, Nicaragua. Further to pro-
tect the Atlantic coast, the gunboat Nash-
ville, at New Orleans, has been ordered
to Puerto Cortez, Honduras, or
Puerto Barrios, Guatemala.

The ships could serve as refuge to
American citizens, and if it were
necessary to land any considerable force
of bluejackets or marines, the larger
vessels of Rear-Admiral Sutherland's
fleet on the west coast, or some of
Rear-Admiral Badger's battleships in
Cuban waters would be called upon.

IN PITIFUL PLIGHT

Richmond Man Found on Streets of
Jeffersonville, Ind.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Louisville, Ky., February 7.—In a
critical condition from intestinal ob-
struction, Gus Gercke was removed
from the county jail at Jeffersonville,
Ind., to Stewards Hospital, New Al-
bany, to-day.

Gercke, who is 34 years of age, was
arrested on the streets of Gercke lives in
Richmond. His father, who was
George Gercke, died in 1904. So far
as known the young man has no police
record. Gercke began to complain of
being ill Tuesday and continued to
grow worse until to-day, when his suf-
ferings became so intense it was be-
lieved he would die. A Bible, a prayer-
book, several letters from a sister, and
a little knit jacket were found in his
pockets.

Fire in Department Building

Washington, February 8.—Fire at 2
o'clock this morning broke out in one
of the new buildings of the Depart-
ment of Agriculture. The flames had
gained considerable headway before
they were discovered by a watchman.